

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A crate system for transporting items wherein said crate system comprises:
a first set of structural tubes;
a first set of beams;
each of said first set of beams having a open slot along the length of said first set of beams extending partially across the upper surface of each of said first set of beams to form overextending lips; and
a first fastening mechanism for securing said first set of structural tubes in a spaced relationship to one another to said first set of beams by engagement through said open slots against said overextending lips.
2. (amended) The crate system of claim 1 wherein said crate system further includes:
a second set of structural tubes;
a second set of beams;
each of said second set of beams having a open slot along the length of said second set of beams extending partially across the upper surface of each of said second set of beams so form overextending lips ;
a second fastening mechanism for securing said second set of structural tubes in a spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams by engagement through said open slots against said overextending lips; and
a securing mechanism for securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes.
3. (original) The crate system of claim 1 wherein said first set of structural tubes includes:
each of said first set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape.
4. (canceled)

5. (amended) The crate system of claim 1 wherein said first set of structural tubes includes:
each of said first set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;
~~said first set of beams include an open slot;~~ and
said first fastening mechanism includes spring nuts mounted in said open slot and a threaded fastener engaging through each of said first set of structural tubes into said spring nuts.

6. (original) The crate system of claim 1 wherein said first set of structural tubes includes:
each of said first set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape; and
said fastening mechanism secures said first set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position spaced from each other on said first set of beams.

7. (original) The crate system of claim 1 wherein said crate system further includes:
a second set of structural tubes;
a second set of beams;
a second fastening mechanism for securing said second set of structural tubes in a spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams; and
a securing mechanism for securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes wherein said securing mechanism includes at least one beam extending the length of said crate and fasteners securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes.

8.(original) The crate system of claim 1 wherein said crate system further includes:
each of said first set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;
said fastening mechanism secures said first set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position spaced from each other on said first set of beams;
a second set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;
a second set of beams;

a second fastening mechanism for securing said second set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position in spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams;
and

a securing mechanism for securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes.

9. The crate system of claim 1 wherein said crate system further includes:
each of said first set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;

said fastening mechanism secures said first set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position spaced from each other on said first set of beams;

a second set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;

a second set of beams;

a second fastening mechanism for securing said second set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position in spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams;
and

a securing mechanism for securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes wherein said securing mechanism includes at least one beam extending the length of said crate and fasteners securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes.

10. (amended) A method for using a crate system for transporting items wherein said method comprises:

providing a first set of structural tubes;

providing a first set of beams having an open slot extending partially across the upper surface of each of said first set of beams forming overextending lips;

providing a first fastening mechanism; and

securing said first set of structural tubes in a spaced relationship to one another to said first set of beams by said first fastening mechanism engaging through said open slots against said overextending lips.

11. (amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes the steps of:
providing a second set of structural tubes;
providing a second set of beams having an open slot extending partially across the upper surface of each of said second set of beams forming overextending lips ;
providing a second fastening mechanism;
securing said second set of structural tubes in a spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams with said second fastening mechanism;
providing a securing mechanism; and
securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes with said securing mechanism by engagement through said open slots against said overextending lips.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said step of providing said first set of structural tubes includes:

providing each of said first set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape.

13. (canceled)

14.(amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes:
said step of providing said first set of structural tubes includes shaping each of said first set of structural tubes in a substantially U shape;
~~said step of providing said first set of beams includes providing an open slot; and~~
~~proving~~ providing spring nuts on said first fastening mechanism mounted in said open slot and a threaded fastener engaging through each of said first set of structural tubes into said spring nuts.

15.(original) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes:
said step of providing said first set of structural tubes includes shaping each of said first set of structural tubes in a substantially U shape; and
said step of securing said first set of structural tubes to said first beams includes securing said first set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position spaced from each other on said

first set of beams.

16. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes:
providing a second set of structural tubes;
providing a second set of beams;
providing a second fastening mechanism;
securing said second set of structural tubes in a spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams with said second fastening mechanism;
providing a securing mechanism; and
securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes wherein said securing mechanism includes at least one beam extending the length of said crate and fasteners securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes with said securing mechanism.

17. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes:
shaping each of said first set of structural tubes in a substantially U shape;
securing said first set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position spaced from each other on said first set of beams with said first fastening mechanism;
providing a second set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;
providing a second set of beams;
providing a second fastening mechanism;
securing said second set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position in spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams with said second fastening mechanism;
providing a securing mechanism; and
securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes with said securing mechanism.

18. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes:
shaping each of said first set of structural tubes in a substantially U shape;
securing said first set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position spaced from each other on said first set of beams with said first fastening mechanism;

providing a second set of structural tubes shaped in a substantially U shape;
providing a second set of beams; providing a second fastening mechanism;
securing said second set of structural tubes in a substantially upright position in spaced relationship to one another to said second set of beams with said second fastening mechanism;
providing a securing mechanism; and
securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes with said securing mechanism wherein said securing mechanism includes at least one beam extending the length of said crate and fasteners securing said assembled first set of structural tubes to said assembled second set of structural tubes.

19. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said method further includes:

disassembling said crate by unfastening said first set of structural tubes from said first set of beams.

20. (Canceled)